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I. Introduction

1. In its report dated 28 March 2003 (A/57/767), which was welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/336 of 18 June 2003, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations decided to continue its consideration of the recommendations contained in the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809) and of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of those recommendations (A/55/502) at its regular session.

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/336, welcomed the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and decided that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and should review the implementation of its previous proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in that field.

3. At its 175th meeting, on 29 March 2004, the Special Committee elected the following representatives as its officers for the one-year term of office: the Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations, Chairperson; Alberto Pedro D'Alotto (Argentina), Glyn Berry (Canada), Koji Haneda (Japan) and Beata Peksa-Krawiec (Poland), Vice-Chairpersons; and Alaa Issa (Egypt) as the Rapporteur.

4. The Special Committee also discussed the organization of its work and decided to establish an open-ended working group, to be chaired by Canada, to consider the substance of the mandate entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly.

II. General debate and working group

5. At its 175th to 178th meetings, on 29 and 30 March 2004, the Special Committee held a general debate on the matters presented in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee (A/58/694).

6. In his statement to the Special Committee at its 175th meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations warned of the major challenge represented by the creation or expansion of United Nations peacekeeping missions on an almost unprecedented scale. The Under-Secretary-General recalled that together, the Member States and the Secretariat of the United Nations must recognize that immense challenge, the opportunities and risks and tap into all the available resources — political, material, financial and human — to meet the tasks at hand, and expressed his conviction that the challenge could be met, but that a lot would be required.

7. The Under-Secretary-General identified five areas in which the main challenges would lie: planning; logistics and mission support; military "enabling" and civilian police capacities; recruitment of civilians; and safety and security. To address the challenges, innovations must be sought and the United Nations must work harder with its peacekeeping partners, including regional organizations and the humanitarian and development communities, to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping.

8. During the ensuing general debate, many delegations underlined their continuing commitment to peacekeeping as an important instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security. The same delegations noted that the current and anticipated surge of peacekeeping operations presented many challenges, particularly in the light of the changing peacekeeping environment, in which mission mandates became more and more complex.

9. Many delegations emphasized that peacekeeping operations should strictly observe the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and those that had evolved to govern peacekeeping and had become basic peacekeeping principles, namely the consent of the parties, the non-use of force except in self-defence and impartiality. In addition, delegations urged that mandates for peacekeeping be clearly defined, and several called for the enhancement of the effectiveness and robustness of United Nations peacekeeping.

10. In the light of the increased level of activity, some delegations reiterated the need for a debate on the conditions under which the United Nations called for new peacekeeping operations, and under which actors besides the United Nations would be able and willing to answer such calls, based on political will and commitment, financial, personnel and material capacity and other comparative strengths.

11. Several delegations acknowledged the continuing reform of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the significant progress made in enhancing its operational capacity. Some delegations requested the Secretariat to conduct a review of the status of implementation of the reform process.

12. Many delegations acknowledged the usefulness of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System and the strategic deployment stocks in helping to ensure rapid deployment. However, it was felt by some delegations that rapid deployment needed to be enhanced. Delegations expressed concern about the depletion of strategic deployment stocks over the past year and urged the Secretariat to develop replenishment strategies for them and evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System.

13. Furthermore, a number of delegations noted that the rapid deployment of well-trained and well-equipped troops was difficult for those countries with inadequate equipment and logistical, medical and training facilities. In that regard, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was urged to assist troop-contributing countries facing such difficulties. Many delegations expressed their appreciation to the Secretariat for facilitating arrangements to overcome equipment shortfalls.

14. Many delegations expressed concern about the failure of the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment to reach agreement. The backlog of reimbursement of claims and the failure to adjust the reimbursement scale constituted a cause of great concern to many delegations. Several delegations, however, noted that there had been an improvement in processing claims and reiterated that funds were needed in order to be able to do so. In that regard, many delegations urged Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time and without conditions.

15. Planning, including through integrated mission planning processes and integrated mission task forces, was stressed by several delegations as a necessity for the success of a mission and the creation of a sound entry and exit strategy. The development of mechanisms on the validation, dissemination and implementation of

lessons learned was seen by many delegations as an important planning tool, as well as a way to improve coordination between the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries.

16. Many delegations welcomed the increase in cooperation and consultation between the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries, and expressed their hope that further efforts would be deployed to increase transparency. At the same time however, many delegations noted that there was a need for better cooperation between troop-contributing countries and the Security Council. In particular, they felt that consultations, as envisaged in Security Council resolution 1353 (2001), should be held more frequently and announced in a more timely fashion, specifically to prepare troop-contributing countries to deploy personnel to a mission rapidly.

17. Some delegations underlined the importance of geographical distribution of staff at United Nations Headquarters and in the field, especially in senior positions, but stressed that, although underrepresented troop-contributing countries needed to be given due consideration, recruited staff should be the most capable and well qualified.

18. Many delegations expressed concern about the deteriorating safety and security situations that were faced by many military, civilian police and civilian personnel in peacekeeping missions. In that regard, many delegations called for enhanced capacities for security assessment, information collection, intelligence management and risk and threat analysis. The current review of the United Nations security management system was welcomed by many delegations.

19. Tribute was paid to those who had given their lives in the service of peace and many delegations expressed their condolences to the families of those who had died.

20. Furthermore, with regard to safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, several delegations supported the requests by the Secretary-General to establish a full-time focal point for safety and security and a mission security management unit within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Many other delegations noted that the necessity of such positions should be considered in the light of the outcome of the current review of the United Nations security management system. Several delegations welcomed the introduction of joint mission analysis cells. Finally, some delegations urged Member States to become parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

21. According to many delegations, favourable public perception of United Nations peacekeeping operations and understanding of its mandates, warranted a strong public relations strategy. In that respect, the relationship between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Public Information was important, and translation of the former's web site into the six official United Nations languages should be a priority.

22. Many delegations recognized the benefits of cooperation with regional organizations and welcomed it, while several highlighted the role of the Multinational Standby High Readiness Brigade for United Nations Operations in that context. In that light, many delegations stressed the importance of enhancing African peacekeeping capacities, including the African Standby Force. Many delegations, however, reiterated that regional cooperation should complement, and not substitute, the centrality of the role of the United Nations.

23. Many delegations noted that the training of personnel was essential to the success of a mission and increased its credibility. In that regard, a number of delegations welcomed the development of an integrated training policy, the coordination of the training of military, civilian police and civilian personnel, the development of standardized training modules and mission training cells. The establishment of the Training Advisory Group was also welcomed by some delegations. Pre-deployment training, some delegations noted, was of no less importance than in-mission training and should complement, and not be replaced by, training provided by the United Nations.

24. Many delegations strongly suggested that the relevant troop-contributing country needed to be involved in the handling of disciplinary and conduct cases from the outset, in a transparent and effective manner that allowed the concerned troop-contributing country access to all the evidence and reports. A number of delegations supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy with regard to the conduct and discipline of all mission personnel and reiterated the need for adherence to the highest standards of conduct. With regard to civilian police, several delegations requested the Secretariat to consider affording to civilian police and corrections personnel the privileges and immunities equivalent to those of armed military personnel.

25. Several delegations stressed that the success of a peacekeeping operation depended, in part, on having a comprehensive strategy in the area of peace-building which included disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, rule of law, security sector reform, mine action, quick-impact projects, human rights, political dialogue and national reconciliation, which addressed the deeper causes of conflict or otherwise prepared the ground for post-conflict reconciliation, reconstruction and development. In that regard, cooperation and coordination with other United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, as well as international and local non-governmental organizations, were of paramount importance.

26. The importance of rule of law activities in the context of peacekeeping operations was recognized by many delegations, who also noted that increased capacities of the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Unit could be helpful in increasing support in the field of justice and related areas. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes were identified by many delegations as another crucial element for the success of peace processes and peacekeeping operations.

27. Many delegations welcomed the work of the HIV/AIDS Policy Adviser of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and called for an extension of the post beyond the current year. Support provided by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to the Department was also welcomed.

28. Several delegations expressed the view that gender mainstreaming was an important element of peacekeeping operations. They called for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and for Member States to provide gender expertise in mission planning and implementation, and to put forward qualified female staff for military, civilian police and civilian positions. The work of the Gender Adviser of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was welcomed by many delegations.

III. Proposals, recommendations and conclusions

A. Introduction

29. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, in making its recommendations, reaffirms the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

30. The Special Committee reaffirms that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the United Nations, in accordance with the Charter, and affirms that peacekeeping continues to be one of the key instruments available to the United Nations in discharging that responsibility. The Special Committee, as the only United Nations forum mandated to review comprehensively the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, including measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Organization to conduct peacekeeping operations, is uniquely able to make a significant contribution in the area of issues and policy relating to peacekeeping operations. It encourages other United Nations bodies, funds and programmes to avail themselves of the Special Committee's particular perspective on peacekeeping operations.

31. Noting the current surge in United Nations peacekeeping efforts in various parts of the world that requires the participation of Member States in various activities, the Special Committee considers it essential for the United Nations to be effectively able to maintain international peace and security. This calls for, inter alia, an improved capacity to assess conflict situations, effective planning and management of peacekeeping operations and quick and effective responses to any Security Council mandate.

32. Since the end of the cold war, there has been an increase in the number of complex peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee notes that, in recent years, the Security Council has mandated peacekeeping operations that have included, in addition to the traditional tasks of monitoring and reporting, a number of other mandated activities. In that regard, the Special Committee stresses the importance of an effective Department of Peacekeeping Operations that is efficiently structured and adequately staffed.

33. The Special Committee pays tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve in peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage. Particular tribute is due to those who have given their lives for the maintenance of peace and security.

34. The Special Committee stresses the importance of consistently applying the principles and standards it has set forth for the establishment and conduct of peacekeeping operations, and also emphasizes the need to continue to consider those principles, as well as definitions of peacekeeping, in a systematic fashion. New proposals or conditions concerning peacekeeping operations should be discussed in the Special Committee.

B. Guiding principles, definitions and implementation of mandates

35. The Special Committee stresses that peacekeeping operations should strictly observe the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. It emphasizes that respect for the principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States, and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, is crucial to common efforts, including peacekeeping operations, to promote international peace and security.

36. The Special Committee believes that respect for the basic principles of peacekeeping, such as the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence, is essential to its success.

37. The Special Committee is of the view that peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict. Those causes should be addressed in a coherent, well planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner, using political, social and developmental instruments. Consideration should be given to ways in which those efforts can continue without interruption after the departure of a peacekeeping operation, so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace and security.

38. The Special Committee stresses that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, pursuant to Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Special Committee notes the statements by the President of the Security Council of 29 December 1998 (S/PRST/1998/38) and 20 February 2001 (S/PRST/2001/5) with regard to the inclusion, as appropriate, of peace-building elements in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, with a view to ensuring a smooth transition to a successful post-conflict phase. The Special Committee stresses the importance of those elements being explicitly defined and clearly identified before being incorporated into the mandates of peacekeeping operations, whenever appropriate. The Committee emphasizes the role of the General Assembly in the formulation of post-conflict peace-building activities.

39. The Special Committee continues to stress the importance of peacekeeping operations being provided with clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures, as well as secure financing, in support of efforts to achieve peaceful solutions to conflicts. It also stresses the need to ensure, in the formulation and implementation of mandates, congruity between mandates, resources and objectives. The Committee emphasizes further that, when changes are made to an existing mandate, commensurate changes should be made to the resources available to a peacekeeping operation to carry out its new mandate. Changes in the mandate of an ongoing mission should be based on a thorough and timely reassessment by the Security Council, including military advice, of the implications on the ground. The Committee also believes that such changes in mandates should occur after thorough discussion between contributing countries and the Council.

40. The Special Committee stresses the need to ensure the unity of command of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It recalls that the overall political direction and control of United Nations-mandated peacekeeping operations are within the competence of the Security Council, while their execution remains the responsibility of the Secretary-General.

C. Safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel

41. The Special Committee pays tribute to the courage and dedication of personnel working in peacekeeping operations and to those who have lost their lives in the service of peace. The Committee is gravely concerned about the precarious security environment prevailing in many field missions and, in that context, calls upon the Secretariat to give the utmost priority to enhancing the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel in the field. It condemns in the strongest terms the killing of military and civilian officers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and Afghanistan, and recognizes that these continuous attacks and other acts of violence constitute a major challenge to United Nations field operations.

42. The Special Committee expresses its abhorrence, and condemns in the strongest terms, the bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad in August 2003.

43. The Committee urges those States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. The Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 58/82 of 9 December 2003, in particular the Assembly's recommendation that key provisions of the Convention, including those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of the operation, the establishment of such attacks as crimes punishable by law and the prosecution or extradition of offenders, be included in status-of-forces, status-of-mission and host country agreements negotiated between the United Nations and those countries.

44. The Special Committee supports the ongoing overall review of the United Nations security management system. It reiterates the need for enhanced coordination and clear delineation of responsibility and accountability among the safety and security components of the United Nations, both at Headquarters and in the field. The Committee stresses that these components should fully participate in the integrated planning process, in order to develop adequate mechanisms for risk and threat assessment and implementation of safety and security measures.

45. While understanding the need to strengthen the safety and security system in the field missions and at United Nations Headquarters in the face of the increased threat to United Nations personnel, and in view of the recent expansion of peacekeeping activities, the Special Committee is of the view that the Secretary-General's request for a full-time safety and security focal point and a mission security management unit within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should be considered within the context of the overall review of the United Nations security management system. In the meantime, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and related bodies in the Secretariat should utilize all available means to address security concerns in new or expanding missions in close coordination with the field.

46. The Special Committee welcomes the introduction of joint mission analysis cells in four missions to date for the purpose of enhancing capacity to gather information in the field and use it appropriately to assess the environments in which they are operating. The Committee believes that such cells fills a major gap in threat and risk analysis and security assessment in the field. They should be properly equipped and adequately staffed, and should have access to all available information. All United Nations institutions and Member States are encouraged to

cooperate closely with the joint mission analysis cells. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to optimize the performance of this essential capacity and to report to it at its next session.

47. The Special Committee recognizes the need to further improve information collection, analysis and dissemination, both at Headquarters and in the field and, pending the result of the United Nations security management system review, requests the Secretariat to utilize all available means, including the Situation Centre, to inform Member States by the fastest and most efficient means, particularly in crisis situations, of changes in the security situation in the field, or when casualties have occurred.

48. The Special Committee urges that adequate medical facilities be present from the commencement stage of a mission, supported by sufficient medical evacuation plans.

49. The Committee recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations institute contingency arrangements for each individual mission to facilitate the evacuation of personnel from the field by utilizing national, over-the-horizon or contracted commercial air transport or naval assets.

50. The Special Committee believes that all personnel in peacekeeping operations should be provided with adequate safety equipment. In this regard, it welcomes the development and employment of minimum operating security standards for peacekeeping missions and urged that they be reviewed and updated as circumstances change.

51. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of pre-mission and in-the-field training, focusing on the safety and security of military personnel, civilian police and other civilian personnel. The Committee therefore welcomes the progress demonstrated by the creation of the Training Advisory Group, as well as the work on the standardized training modules.

52. In relation to the measures to deal with accidents, which account for a large proportion of recent incidents involving the death or injury of personnel in United Nations peacekeeping missions, the Special Committee believes that the Secretariat could benefit from the expertise incorporated into the safety programmes of Member States in areas including flight safety, vehicle safety, health and fire prevention. The Committee encourages Member States to share with the Secretariat relevant information on national safety programmes.

53. The Special Committee reiterates its requests for information on the status of the Secretariat's work to formalize a policy on protection from nuclear, biological and chemical threats in the field.

54. In order to ensure that air operations in peacekeeping missions are undertaken in the safest possible manner, the Special Committee stresses the need for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue to observe the highest possible standards of aviation safety at all times.

55. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to ensure that expeditious, comprehensive, impartial and transparent investigations or inquiries are conducted into incidents leading to loss of life or serious injury among personnel deployed in United Nations peacekeeping missions and to provide all troop-contributing countries in the missions concerned with copies of all documents relating to internal

United Nations investigations and inquiries, including the final outcomes, at the earliest stage possible. Early implementation of standard operating procedures to avoid repetition of such accidents should be encouraged. Information on measures actually implemented to avoid the repetition of such accidents should also be made available, as soon as possible, to all the troop-contributing countries of missions concerned.

D. Cooperation with troop-contributing countries

56. The Special Committee believes that there is a need to strengthen the relationship between those who plan, mandate and manage peacekeeping operations and those who implement the mandates for those operations. The Committee believes that a true partnership — one which is sustainable in the face of complex peacekeeping operations — must continue to improve the relationship between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries. Troop-contributing countries, through their experience and expertise, can greatly contribute to the planning process and can assist the Security Council in taking appropriate, effective and timely decisions on peacekeeping operations.

57. In the critical area of cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries, the Special Committee reiterates the need for substantive and meaningful consultations. In this context, the Committee takes note of the provisions of sections A and B of annex II to Security Council resolution 1353 (2001), including the Council's commitment to hold consultations in a timely manner, at various stages of a peacekeeping operation, in particular: (a) when the Secretary-General has identified potential troop-contributing countries for a new or ongoing peacekeeping operation; (b) during the implementation phase of an operation; (c) when considering a change to, renewal or completion of a peacekeeping mandate; or (d) whenever there is a rapid deterioration in the situation on the ground, including when it threatens the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers.

58. The Committee recognizes that the meetings and mechanisms established by the Security Council in resolution 1353 (2001) have served to facilitate the consultation process. It is important that, as appropriate: (a) meetings be held in sufficient time before the Council renews or mandates an operation, so that the views of troop-contributing countries can contribute meaningfully to the decision-making process; (b) meetings be convened, including at the request of a troop-contributing country and; (c) the outcome summary reflect the views and concerns expressed in the discussions between the Security Council and the troop contributors. Copies of the report of the Secretary-General on specific peacekeeping operations should also be circulated to troop-contributing countries in good time to allow the timely holding of meetings with those countries before discussions among Security Council members are held. Notice of such meetings should be provided sufficiently in advance to assist participants to contribute effectively to them.

59. The Special Committee takes cognizance of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2002/56) regarding the establishment of a mechanism for strengthening the Council's cooperation with troop-contributing countries on specific peacekeeping operations, complementary to the forms of consultation established by the Security Council in resolution 1353 (2001). The Committee looks

forward to the full and effective implementation of the recommendations contained in the note, so as to enhance and strengthen cooperation between the Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat. The Committee also encourages increased consultations between the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations and troop contributors on specific peacekeeping issues and individual peacekeeping operations.

60. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to offer comprehensive briefings, both on general policy and on issues from the ongoing missions in the field, making full use of modern audio-visual presentations and information technology systems. The Committee recommends that the Secretariat continue to look at ways to improve modalities for information-sharing with troop-contributing countries, particularly with respect to the Situation Centre's briefings and reports.

61. The Special Committee encourages close consultation with the Member States while developing or updating guidelines and policy documents. Their input, for example, into documents on civil military coordination policy, on disciplinary issues and on command and control is essential for their commitment to implementation.

62. The Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to make more use of issue-specific workshops and briefings throughout the year to pursue a focused cooperation on questions related to peacekeeping as one component in the dialogue between Member States and the Secretariat.

63. In strengthening best practices for current and future peacekeeping operations, the Committee believes that it was important for the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit to consult with the troop-contributing countries that had participated in various United Nations peacekeeping missions. Periodic meetings could be convened by the Secretariat with the participation of former force commanders and national contingent commanders in its effort to develop validation mechanisms for lessons learned and best practices.

64. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to consult with the troop-contributing countries in a timely manner when planning any change in the tasks, mission-specific rules of engagement, operational concepts or command and control structure which impact on the personnel, equipment, training and logistics requirements, in order to enable troop-contributing countries to give their advice in the planning process and to ensure that their troops have the capacity to meet these new demands. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to consult with the troop-contributing countries concerned when planning a drawdown of troops in any peacekeeping operation. The implementation of the drawdown should take place only after consideration of inputs from the troop-contributing countries and bearing in mind the situation on the ground.

65. The Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to hold the military and civilian police advisers' course on an annual basis.

66. The Special Committee requests that a comprehensive list of existing and anticipated peacekeeping-related policy papers, guidelines, manuals, standard operating procedures and training materials issued by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations be provided to Member States at regular intervals and be

made available on the Department's web site. Such a list should contain the title, issue date, current status and schedule for revision of the documents.

E. Cooperation with regional arrangements

67. Bearing in mind the primacy of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, the Special Committee reaffirms the important contribution that regional arrangements and agencies can make to peacekeeping, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate, and when the mandate and scope of regional arrangements and agencies allow.

68. The Special Committee affirms that the quality and availability of capacity for a peacekeeping response is an important condition for the success of the operation. In that regard, while emphasizing the central role of the United Nations in all peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee welcomes the new partnerships with relevant regional organizations that have enabled the Organization in recent years to make use of regional capacities.

69. The Committee stresses that assisting regional and subregional organizations to strengthen their capacities for peacekeeping will prove beneficial, not only to those organizations, but also to confidence-building in the regions concerned and to peace and stability of the international community as a whole. At the same time, more deliberation should be encouraged on the optimal relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional entities with regard to peacekeeping.

70. The Committee recognizes that regional organizations have unique and complementary capacities to offer in support of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The areas in which regional organizations might be able to add value include rapid-reaction capabilities, in addition to those that the United Nations already possesses, over-the-horizon capabilities, coordinated civilian and civilian police capabilities, specialized capabilities, provision of coherent headquarters, regional expertise, and sharing of best practices and training. In addition, regional organizations might be able to assist the United Nations in identifying contributions being offered from their own member States, or act as a one-stop shop. However, efforts by regional organizations to further develop regional capacities should be in addition to any bilateral contributions from individual Member States.

71. The Special Committee recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations expand and deepen its contacts with interested regional organizations and their subregional partners, especially at the working level, in order to identify and implement practical means for partnership. In addition, the Special Committee recommends that the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit continue to develop its catalogue of lessons learned in consultation with regional organizations, building on its studies of the Interim Emergency Multinational Force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Economic Community of West African States Mission in Liberia, and that these lessons are incorporated in future partnerships with regional organizations. The Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to cooperate closely with regional and subregional organizations which have lent the United Nations effective support by temporarily deploying peacekeeping missions during critical phases.

F. Enhancing African peacekeeping

72. The Special Committee notes the predicted surge in peacekeeping activities in Africa during 2004 and urges Member States to continue to provide direct contributions to United Nations peace support operations in Africa in a timely manner.

73. The Special Committee recognizes the effort to establish the African Standby Forces through regional partnership arrangements. The Special Committee further recognizes that coherent African Union units working together to develop and adopt standard United Nations training equipment, common doctrine and arrangements for operational control will enhance their ability to respond to crises.

74. The Special Committee recognizes the need to further expand the pool of African military, civilian police and civilian specialists available for peacekeeping operations. In that context, the Committee requests that efforts to train African military peacekeeping personnel be enhanced, reinforced and conducted to United Nations standards. The Committee also requests that regional and subregional organizations, including African peacekeeping training centres, and individual Member States, consider expanding training for civilian police and civilian specialists.

75. The Special Committee welcomes the new partnerships that are being established in building Africa's capacity for conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace-building between the United Nations, the African Union, other regional organizations and bodies, and individual Member States. It welcomes developments in relation to the European Union's peace facility for Africa and encourages the development of similar mechanisms. The Committee calls for coordination of bilateral and multilateral efforts to ensure that their effectiveness is maximized.

76. The nature of conflicts in Africa requires comprehensive and coordinated regional approaches and strategies to address cross-border issues, such as disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration, small arms and light weapons control, rule of law, security sector reform, confidence- and security-building measures and humanitarian services. In that context, the Special Committee underlines the need to ensure predictable funding to disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration programmes in Africa through relevant channels and donors. The Special Committee agrees on the desirability for regionally linked United Nations peacekeeping operations to explore synergies, such as staff exchanges, sharing of information, exchange of lessons learned and non-military matters (where practical, without impairing operational effectiveness) and recommends an in-depth discussion of the issue. The Committee also looks forward to the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the enhancement of Africa's peacekeeping capacity.

77. The Special Committee continues to stress the need for regular consultations between the United Nations and regional (African Union) and subregional organizations, with a view to enhancing African peacekeeping capacity. The Committee appreciates the fact that African troop-contributing countries had gained relevant experience that can be used to develop the capacity for peacekeeping of the African Union and also to lay the ground for the development of regional standby arrangement systems.

G. Comprehensive strategies for complex peacekeeping operations

78. The Special Committee recognizes the need for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to plan for peacekeeping missions in such a manner as to facilitate post-conflict peace-building and long-term prevention of recurrence of armed conflict.

79. In this context, the Committee encourages the Secretariat to develop comprehensive and coherent strategies and early integrated mission planning based on lessons learned in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, strengthening of rule of law, security sector reform, quick-impact projects, and mine action, with a view to restoring immediate security and stability in post-conflict societies. Underlining the need for clear and well-defined mandates and exit strategies for multidimensional peacekeeping operations, the Committee recalled in that regard relevant recommendations contained in resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on prevention of armed conflict and Security Council resolution 1366 (2001), and called for inclusion, as appropriate, of peace-building elements in complex mandates to generate enabling conditions for prevention of recurrence of armed conflict.

80. The Committee stresses the need for strengthened cooperation and coordination among specialized agencies, funds and programmes within the United Nations system under their respective mandates, as well as with the Bretton Woods institutions, international donors, humanitarian organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society for ensuring operational clarity and coherence on the ground during implementation of those comprehensive strategies in the post-conflict peace-building phases, so as to ensure a smooth transition to long-term development activities. The Committee looks forward to the detailed review of the capacity of the United Nations system in that regard to be included in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 57/337 to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

1. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

81. The Special Committee stresses that, first and foremost, the success of any disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process depends on the political will and mutual trust of the parties in conflict.

82. The Special Committee recognizes that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes are a critical part of peace processes and peacekeeping operations and actively supports strengthening coordination of those programmes. The Committee stresses the importance of planning and preparations at United Nations Headquarters, in particular through the prompt establishment, in the Executive Committee on Peace and Security/integrated mission task forces context, of comprehensive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration strategies. These should be developed, from the outset, with the involvement of key international and local actors, as well as the donor community. The Special Committee underscores the valuable role that the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit can play in that regard.

83. The Special Committee also recognizes the critical importance of ensuring the sustained commitment by the donor community in support of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and believes that further efforts in relevant forums should be undertaken with the donor community to identify ways to

secure financing for all components of the programmes throughout the whole of the process.

84. The Special Committee stresses the need for all disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes to take into account the special needs of child and women soldiers, as well as of children and women who are dependants of ex-combatants.

85. The Special Committee recognizes the need for a clear commitment by peacekeeping missions to implement those strategies, in full and transparent cooperation with local authorities and all relevant partners. Both the strategies and their goals should be realistic and within the limits of the relevant mandate. To that end, the Committee stresses the importance, at the earliest stage of the peace negotiation process preceding the establishment of a mission, of the early identification, preparation and coordination of all relevant actors, in order to develop, well in advance, a successful disarmament, demobilization and reintegration strategy.

86. The Special Committee stresses further the importance, in the implementation phase of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, of a coherent public information programme to promote and sustain the confidence of the local population throughout the process.

87. The Special Committee recognizes that the uncontrolled spread of illicit small arms and light weapons poses threats to peace processes and undermines efforts to ensure security on the ground. The Committee underlines the importance of effective disarmament measures, including the collection, safe storage, disposal or destruction of arms from ex-combatants, for the overall success of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, in accordance with the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. In that regard, the Committee also highlights the importance of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education and looks forward to its implementation in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes.

2. Rule of law

88. The Special Committee recognizes that establishment and strengthening of local rule-of-law capacities is an essential element in creating and sustaining stability in a post-conflict environment. A United Nations peacekeeping mission may be mandated to provide technical advice to reform the local criminal justice system. In doing so, the United Nations must pay special attention to and work closely with local actors to create police, judicial and corrections structures that are consistent with both the local culture of the area and its people and accepted international standards.

89. The Special Committee is cognizant of the report of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security regarding the need for enhanced United Nations system-wide coordination to strengthen its rule-of-law capacities and mobilize identified resources for the purpose. The Committee believed that the report comprehensively identifies available expertise within and outside the United Nations system and suggests possible partnerships and arrangements through which United Nations departments and agencies and external entities, including Member States and non-

governmental organizations, as appropriate, can provide available expertise. The Committee requests the Secretariat to provide an assessment of the work undertaken thus far in that area, the extent of coordination with other parts of the United Nations system active in the field of rule of law and evolution of partnerships, particularly in the area of justice and corrections. The Committee also requests the Secretariat to provide details of constraints faced, if any, in that regard. The Committee notes the request of the Secretary-General, in paragraph 48 of his report (A/58/694), for additional resources and seeks greater clarification as to the nature of the resources requested.

3. Quick-impact projects

90. The Special Committee stresses the importance of quick-impact projects and suggested that they be not only an integral part of mission planning and development, but also part of the implementation of comprehensive strategies to meet the challenges facing complex peacekeeping operations.

91. The Special Committee recommends that selection procedures for quick-impact projects be made more flexible and be addressed, as much as possible, at field level, under the control of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The Committee further recommends that resources for quick-impact projects be made available through the second year of peacekeeping operation provided that they remain in direct support of the mission's mandate and either respond to needs not covered by existing development and humanitarian assistance efforts, or serve as catalyst to broaden those efforts. The Special Committee also stresses that resources reserved for quick-impact projects should be used strictly for the purposes for which they are intended, in a timely fashion.

4. Mine action

92. The Special Committee welcomes all efforts to mainstream the role of mine action in both the peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building phases of a United Nations-mandated peace operation. In that regard, the Committee also welcomes the Security Council Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2003/22) recognizing the long-term consequences of landmines and unexploded ordnance for durable peace, security and development. Moreover, the Committee welcomes the efforts undertaken to ensure that mine-action activities are considered in a coordinated and systematic manner, in accordance with national and international standards including the International Mine Action Standards.

93. The Committee encourages all stakeholders in mine action to make use of standardized information management systems, such as the Information Management System for Mine Action for the collection, analysis and dissemination of mine-related information. The Committee further encourages the development and application of standardized mine-action training modules, mine-risk education materials and operating procedures for use by troop-contributing countries, consistent with United Nations policies and standards.

H. Enhancing the capacity of the United Nations for peacekeeping

1. Lessons learned and implementation of best practices

94. The Special Committee takes note of the focus of the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit on policy development, lessons learned and knowledge management and expects that the Unit will continue to play an integral part, in coordination with other parts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the field missions and in cooperation with Member States and regional organizations, in the development of generic peacekeeping policies, procedures and guidelines and in the integration of lessons learned and best practices in the planning and conduct of ongoing or future missions.

95. The Special Committee welcomes the launch of the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit web site (www.peacekeepingbestpractices.unlb.org) and database and strongly encourages the Unit to make available on its web site its reports, studies, policy papers and other relevant documents, to the extent possible. The Special Committee welcomes the publication of the Handbook on multidimensional peacekeeping.

96. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of effective information-sharing between the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit and the training facilities of the United Nations and of Member States, in order to ensure that lessons learned are implemented in future missions and incorporated into policy and training documents.

97. The Special Committee urges the Unit to consult and share information with troop-contributing countries in the preparation of its reports and studies, where relevant. To contribute further to a productive dialogue between Member States, the Secretariat and other regional organizations, the Unit is further encouraged to convene regular briefings with Member States to inform them on the work of the Unit.

98. The Committee welcomes the progress achieved thus far in the development of a field-level best practices network, encouraged its full development and supports the establishment of a lessons-learned capacity in all missions.

2. Rapid deployment

99. The Special Committee welcomes the enhanced ability of the United Nations to deploy more rapidly than in the past. It emphasizes the need to continue efforts to improve further the Organization's rapid deployment capabilities, so as to meet the agreed requirement of deploying peacekeeping operations within 30 to 90 days of the adoption of a Security Council resolution. The Committee suggested using the United Nations Standby Arrangements System database as a starting point for the force-generation process.

100. In order to further bolster capacities to rapidly deploy, and specifically with the intent of truncating preparation time lines, the Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to improve the efficacy of all existing aspects of pre-mandate operational preparedness. Dissemination of more timely and accurate information on upcoming missions to troop-contributing countries was a prerequisite, if they are to meet required deadlines to deploy. This, supported by a more efficient management of the

financial and logistical aspects, would contribute greatly in making deployments both rapid and effective.

101. The Special Committee supports the requirements for rapidly deployable reserve forces as an integral part of a peacekeeping force under the operational command of the Force Commander whenever the specific circumstances on the ground so require. The Special Committee welcomes further study and proposals by the Secretariat in that regard.

102. The Special Committee welcomes the United Nations improved rapid response capabilities, and particularly the recent United Nations Mission in Liberia deployment in terms of meeting target deployment times. In order to further enhance and supplement this capability, the Committee recommended that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations continue to develop its relationships with regional arrangements. The Special Committee also encouraged the Department to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of the Standby Arrangements System arrangements and optimize the strategic deployment stocks system in the light of recent lessons learned. The Special Committee strongly supports the concept of using the rapid deployment level very early in the force-generation process to link troops from one Member State with equipment and training provided by other sources.

103. The Special Committee stresses the need for militarily coherent, well-trained and cohesive headquarters to achieve the degree of command and control necessary for effective implementation of complex mandates. In pursuit of that aim, the Special Committee further urges continued and wider use of existing rapidly deployable headquarters in the initial phase of a peacekeeping operation, allowing composite United Nations Headquarters time to form, train, plan and deploy as a fully effective staff. The earliest possible selection of the Force Commander, Police Commissioner and headquarters staff is recommended, to allow for their training and engagement in the pre-mission planning process.

104. The Special Committee reiterates its request for the creation of a working group, with the participation of Member States, along the lines of the working group on levels of ammunition for peacekeeping operations, to consider the funding difficulties of troop-contributing countries in complying with rapid deployment requirements, especially ways of assuring rapid reimbursement in the rapid deployment phase. In that connection, the Special Committee requests the Secretariat to produce a study on all possible options.

(a) Personnel

105. The Special Committee urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to use the on-call list of military, civilian police and civilian personnel to fill various vacancies in existing missions and any new missions being contemplated. Proper maintenance, updating and utilization of the lists would help to reduce the lead time for deploying core mission personnel to future operations.

106. The Special Committee welcomes the initiatives to improve the capacity for rapid deployment of civilian personnel, and considers the Department of Peacekeeping Operations rapid deployment teams as being very valuable in that regard. However, given the likely surge in peacekeeping activities in 2004 and the requirement for a large number of rapidly deployable civilians, the Special Committee requests that the Department explore alternative means of placing staff

on standby, including qualified external candidates, in addition to expanding the rapid deployment team concept. This work needs to be linked to the recruitment efforts of the Department's Personnel Management and Support Service.

(b) Materiel readiness

107. The Special Committee recognizes the high value added by the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in reducing the deployment time line for peacekeeping operations, and requests the optimization of the strategic deployment stocks, following lessons learned from recent deployment in the light of the anticipated surge in peacekeeping operations.

108. The Special Committee takes note of the fact that the Secretariat is conducting a review of strategic deployment stocks, but calls upon the Secretariat to ensure that, in the course of the review, all aspects of pre-mandate operational preparedness, with the goal of truncating preparation time line, are covered.

109. In order to overcome contingent-owned equipment and sustainability shortfall faced by some troop-contributing countries, the Special Committee recommends that the United Nations continue facilitation, where appropriate, of various enabling arrangements, including through other Member States and bilateral arrangements. The Committee emphasizes the need for appropriate arrangements to be made in order to clearly define in advance the responsibilities of all parties involved in those mechanisms.

(c) Planning

110. The Special Committee recognizes the increased challenges faced by the United Nations in planning for and effectively implementing the complex mandates often called for in peacekeeping operations today and in meeting the planning demands of surges in operational activity. The Special Committee recommends that the United Nations implement a fully integrated mission-planning process across all departments and stakeholders, producing a mission concept of operations and component plans that are fully understood, integrated, rehearsed and owned. It also encourages the United Nations to seek additional surge planning capacity from external sources, such as existing regional headquarters, national staff or teams of international experts on a time, objective or mission-orientated basis.

I. Personnel issues

1. Discipline

111. The Special Committee affirms the need to ensure that all personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations functions in a manner that preserves the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations. The Special Committee agrees with the Secretary-General that misconduct, and even perceptions of impropriety have a detrimental effect on the relations of national contingents with the local population and could cause difficulties in fulfilling mandates.

112. The Special Committee also recalls that, at its previous session, it had requested the Secretariat to consult closely with troop and police-contributing countries in order to develop a common understanding and agreed procedures to handle cases, including through legal action, of alleged violations of the code of

conduct and, considering the importance of this issue, had requested that the Secretariat convene a meeting with Member States in 2003 to discuss ways and means of meeting the challenges in this area to minimize misconduct. The Special Committee notes that the meeting called for has not been held and requests that it be convened before the 2005 session.

113. Bearing in mind the shared responsibility of the United Nations and troop-contributing countries for their personnel, the Special Committee emphasizes again that cases of alleged misconduct should be handled through cooperation between the troop-contributing countries concerned and mission leadership, including with regard to public information and the need to take action with respect to national laws. The Committee continues to urge the Secretariat to involve the contributing country concerned from the outset in an investigation into any case of alleged misconduct. In that context, the Committee regrets that the Secretariat withholds at its own discretion, certain elements of the outcome of the investigation of cases of misconduct from the troop or police-contributing country whose national is the subject of investigation. The Committee stresses that the Secretariat must make the outcome of the investigation, including all related evidence, available to that country, in order to enable its national authorities to take legal steps.

114. With a view to improving discipline in a preventive manner, the Special Committee encourages Member States contributing formed units to United Nations peacekeeping missions to deploy appropriately trained counsellors with those units wherever practicable on the part of the contributing country concerned.

115. The Special Committee recognizes the need to strengthen the systems of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for monitoring and reporting all cases of misconduct in peacekeeping operations and for greater accountability and transparency in dealing with such cases. In that regard, the Committee welcomes the Secretary-General's bulletin dated 9 October 2003 on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13), and the subsequent steps being taken by the Department to ensure that each mission has an active strategy to prevent and respond to the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse as they relate to peacekeeping operations. The Committee takes note of the development by the Department of a web-based training module on the international civil service commission standards of conduct and the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.

116. The Special Committee requests that Member States be briefed on the progress of the review that the Department is carrying out on how to improve notification and monitoring of conduct in field missions.

2. Recruitment

117. Reaffirming Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Special Committee reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to implement openly and transparently paragraphs 11 and 12 of General Assembly resolution 56/241 of 24 December 2001 in future recruitment for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

118. While the Special Committee acknowledges the comments of the audit report presented by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/58/704), it would like to point out that the Office also recommended, in paragraph 36 of its report, that the

Department of Peacekeeping Operations should continue its ongoing effort to further improve the geographical and gender distribution of its staff in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions. The Special Committee recommends that the Secretariat pay due attention in that regard to recruitment for field missions with a focus on high-level Professional posts.

119. The Special Committee welcomes the development of the United Nations online recruitment site, Galaxy, and requests that the Secretariat provide the Committee with a report on its impact on the recruitment process. Specifically, the Committee would like information on the impact of Galaxy on the ability of the Personnel Management and Support Service to recruit qualified staff and deploy them to missions quickly, including an assessment of how an increased volume of applications has affected capacity and procedures of the Service.

120. The Special Committee, acknowledging that language skills constitute an important element of the recruitment criteria, and that the interaction of United Nations military, civilian police and civilian expert personnel with local populations should be improved, affirms that due attention should be paid to those candidates competent in relevant local languages. The Committee also acknowledges that, when necessary, local interpreters may be recruited.

121. The Special Committee recognizes that recruiting and retaining civilian personnel is a major challenge to be addressed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. In that regard, the Committee requests the Department to study and propose specific measures to improve the existing mechanisms and procedures.

3. Training

122. The Special Committee reminds the Secretariat of the support expressed in paragraph 100 of the 2003 report of the Special Committee (A/57/767), for enhanced coordination of the military, civilian police and civilian training activities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Committee welcomes the setting up of the training advisory group as outlined in paragraph 59 of the Secretary-General's implementation report (A/58/694) and urges the Secretariat to make more progress on the establishment of a single multidimensional training unit within the Department, as outlined in paragraph 100 of the 2003 report of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Special Committee at its next session.

123. The Special Committee welcomes the establishment of a line item for police training for the Civilian Police Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

124. The Committee believed that the development of standardized training modules level I — Generic is an important step in improving the effectiveness of training and, in order to take the process forward, recommends that the development of standardized training modules, levels II and III be given high priority. The Committee further believes that standardized training modules should be flexible and appropriate for modern requirements and should incorporate lessons learned and best practices through coordination with national and regional peacekeeping centres, other relevant bodies and agencies and Member States.

125. The Special Committee believes it highly desirable that there should be effective pre-deployment training for all key personnel in a United Nations mission.

It also believes that particular attention is required for training within field missions, involving all components of the mission, and fully endorses the upgrading of the mission training cells concept into the integrated mission training centres concept, with military, civilian police and civilian dimensions, for all multidimensional missions.

126. The Committee supports a focus of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on providing national and regional peacekeeping training centres with the necessary guidance for training peacekeeping personnel. It requests the Secretariat to provide the same guidance to training focal points located in member countries. The Special Committee also welcomes the revitalization of the United Nations Training Assistance Team concept.

127. The Special Committee welcomes the accelerated production and delivery of training manuals and recalls the need for all United Nations training documents to be translated into all the official languages of the Organization.

128. The Special Committee welcomes the publication of the Handbook on multidimensional peacekeeping operations and the incorporation of the standardized training modules, level I of all the essential components of peacekeeping operations (including, inter alia, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, rule of law, mine action, gender mainstreaming, human rights and international humanitarian law) and encourages Member States contributing troops, civilian police and other civilian personnel to continue to incorporate the same into their national training curriculums.

129. The Special Committee underlines the relevance of bilateral training arrangements for potential for troop-contributing countries and of the need to consider, for the future, the possibility of developing regional approaches for training aspects.

130. The Special Committee takes note of the progress made thus far in the development of a mechanism for evaluating and monitoring the results of peacekeeping training and encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to complete that development soon and to inform the Committee of its effectiveness soon after the start of its full application.

131. The Special Committee notes that training is increasingly becoming a critical element in peacekeeping operations and urged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to tap the experience of troop contributors that had a considerable background in peacekeeping operations, especially the more complex ones. Troop-contributing countries should be encouraged and supported, as appropriate, to provide a wide range of training opportunities to other countries, including new and emerging troop-contributing countries.

132. The Special Committee looks forward to the publication by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Gender Resource Package for Peacekeeping Operations, which could be well utilized by the troop and police-contributing countries in the training of their peacekeeping personnel, and as a practical guide to the wide range of gender-sensitive issues in peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee recommends that this be reflected in the training of personnel, for example, gender sensitivity training of civilian, civilian police and military peacekeeping staff at Headquarters and in the field.

J. Civilian police

133. The Special Committee supports the increasing integration of civilian police expertise, together with other rule-of-law elements, in the integrated mission planning process, integrated mission task forces and mission assessment teams.

134. The Special Committee reiterates that when civilian police and corrections personnel are assigned executive tasks, in which they directly implement law and order functions, they may be required to use enforcement measures in accordance with their mandates and rules of engagement. In that regard, the Committee takes note of the clarification provided by the Secretariat regarding the current legal status of such personnel. The Committee continues to believe that the tasks of such personnel require an adaptation of the current rules governing their legal status and reiterates its requests that the Secretariat consider assigning such personnel privileges and immunities equivalent to those of armed military personnel. The Special Committee reminds the United Nations Secretariat of the latter's offer to hold a meeting with Member States to examine this issue. The Special Committee is disappointed that the Secretariat has not yet convened such a meeting and did not report to the Committee on the issue as requested in paragraph 184 of its report of 2003. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to follow up promptly on that request.

135. The Special Committee endorses the Secretariat's revised policy regarding the recruitment of retired police officers into peacekeeping operations and of raising the age limit for civilian police service, taking into account the different requirements for various types of appointments.

K. Gender and peacekeeping

136. The Special Committee shares the Secretary-General's concern about the low representation of women in peacekeeping operations and expresses its wish to see more female candidates for senior civilian appointments and for military and civilian police positions at all levels. While commending the Secretariat for the efforts it has made in mainstreaming a gender perspective into the activities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Special Committee, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and General Assembly resolution 55/71 of 4 December 2000, encourages the Secretariat to pursue that policy further and, in so doing, to implement the valuable recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security (S/2002/1154), insofar as they relate to peacekeeping.

137. The Special Committee supports the principle of gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping and recognizes the need for a gender mainstreaming strategy for United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee seeks to incorporate gender components into field operations and to ensure that the composition of field teams are gender balanced and knowledgeable about gender perspectives. The Special Committee recommends that gender experts be included in pre-mandate assessments and planning, to ensure that the gender dimension is fully addressed in mission mandates.

138. The Special Committee welcomes the decision of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to focus in the coming year on establishing procedures for

gender mainstreaming including developing an organizational action plan for implementing the elements in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) relating to peacekeeping. The Special Committee encouraged the Secretariat, while developing the action plan, to continue to implement actions called for in resolution 1325 (2000), both in mainstreaming a gender perspective in all aspects of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as well as in all areas that contribute to improving the status and participation of women in peace processes and in all aspects and at all levels of reconstruction in post-conflict societies. The Committee encourages field missions to involve women at every level in conflict and post-conflict societies. The Committee further encourages the Secretariat to take into account the recommendations relating to peacekeeping operations contained in Commission on the Status of Women resolution E/CN.6/2004/L.6, as well as the relevant guidelines provided in the agreed conclusions of the Commission on Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building.

139. The Special Committee, recognizing the increased number of women participating in peacekeeping missions, recommends that mission medical plans, where necessary, include the capacity to provide at least one medical facility with the capacity to provide specialist medical treatment for women.

140. The Special Committee welcomes the enhanced collaboration between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Development Fund for Women and encouraged a more structured cooperation between them, in the context of United Nations peacekeeping operations. Moreover, the Special Committee welcomes the cooperation between the Department, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and other United Nations entities working in the area of gender issues.

141. The Special Committee takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping activities (A/57/731) and stresses the need for ongoing reporting from the Secretary-General on how gender mainstreaming is being implemented in the field and at Headquarters.

142. The Special Committee takes note of the need to disaggregate by sex and age, in United Nations peacekeeping operations, specific data on the situation of women and girls and the impact of interventions on them.

L. Children and peacekeeping

143. The Special Committee recognizes the special needs of children in armed conflict situations. In that context, the Committee welcomes the progress made in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1460 (2003) and the appointment of child protection advisers in the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire.

144. The Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue and further improve its cooperation and coordination with other relevant United Nations bodies, international and local non-governmental organizations and the international donor community in order to promote and protect children's rights.

145. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Children's Fund and Save the Children in the development of the manual entitled "Child protection training for United Nations peacekeeping personnel", and requested the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to inform it at its next session about the manual and its use during the induction training of all mission personnel.

M. Public information

146. The Special Committee recognizes the important role of public information in the modern operational environment and encourages interdepartmental coordination between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Public Information.

N. Financial issues

147. The Special Committee emphasizes that any given peacekeeping mission must be provided with adequate financial and other necessary resources, along with political support, to complete its assigned tasks.

148. The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 58/275 of 23 December 2003 and reaffirms the role of the General Assembly, as set out in Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations as the organ to consider and approve the budget of the Organization, as well as the appropriation of its expenses among Member States.

149. The Committee takes note of the unprecedented surge in United Nations peacekeeping operations, as highlighted both in the report of the Secretary-General and the presentation to the Committee by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. The Committee acknowledges that peacekeeping resources are not unlimited and that securing the necessary human and financial resources will pose challenges to all Member States. In those circumstances, the Committee emphasizes that when a new mission is being planned, full account must be taken of the exit strategy. The Committee urges the Secretariat to fully integrate operational, logistical and financial aspects in the planning phase of peacekeeping operations.

150. After the missions are established, periodic reviews should be undertaken to ensure that the activities of each are implemented effectively and efficiently, including through cost reductions and enhanced synergy through cooperation and coordination between the missions in a same region. In addition, the size of a mission must be reduced in line with the gradual fulfilment of its mandate.

151. The Special Committee again stresses that all Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. It reaffirms the obligation of Member States, under Article 17 of the Charter, to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly, bearing in mind the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963.

152. The Special Committee notes that there has been continued improvement in addressing delays in the payment of reimbursements and claims, and encourages

progress. The Committee also notes that there are still contributors that have not yet been reimbursed for their participation in various closed missions going back more than a decade, such as the United Nations Mission in Somalia and the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia. The Committee invites the Fifth Committee to look into practical modalities to address this exceptional circumstance, and to inform the Committee at the next session.

153. The Special Committee expresses its appreciation for the clarification in the report of the Secretary-General regarding the manner in which Member States that contribute troops to peacekeeping operations can achieve early reimbursement. The Committee urges the Secretariat, as it did in an earlier report, to proceed with the regular payments for personnel, starting with the first month of their presence in a United Nations mission, and to calculate early contingent-owned equipment reimbursement for the first six months of service, payable no later than the end of that period. The Special Committee requests that troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat complete contingent-owned equipment memorandum of understanding negotiations prior to deployment, as far as possible.

154. The Special Committee expresses concern over the inability of the 2004 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment to reach consensus on the triennial review of the reimbursement rate of major equipment and self-sustainment, as well as its review of the medical support services and the methodology for reimbursement of troop costs. The Committee requests all Member States to engage constructively at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly in the Fifth Committee to resolve the issues considered in the report of the 2004 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment.

155. As a general rule, changes to contingent-owned equipment administrative procedures will normally be considered by the Working Group during its triennial meeting. The Committee notes however, that there may be contingent-owned equipment administrative issues that should be considered earlier because they inhibit the efficacy of the contingent-owned equipment management system. Where appropriate, those issues should be dealt with between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Member States.

156. The Special Committee reiterates the need for a review of the relevant administrative procedures and financial regulations, with a view to accelerating the disbursement procedures for resources allocated to United Nations peacekeeping mission budgets for quick-impact projects. The early availability of those resources is critical for the successful use of such projects in fulfilling the mission's mandate.

157. The Special Committee notes that, as a general rule, budgets for United Nations peacekeeping operations provide the necessary resources for recruiting interpreters to assist relevant mission components in their interaction with local populations.

158. The Special Committee notes the fast-cash initiative referred to in paragraph 30 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/58/694) and requests further information on the initiative at its next session.

159. The Special Committee welcomes the improvement in processing claims, and notes that the ensuing payment is not possible unless funds are available. The Committee recommends that the Secretariat accelerate the process of claims introduced by Member States confronted by financial and logistical difficulties,

provided that a memorandum of understanding has been signed. The Committee therefore urges that the time taken for Member States and the Secretariat to negotiate, approve and sign a memorandum of understanding be expedited.

160. The Special Committee is encouraged to learn about the work of the Military Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on conditions of service for military personnel, which are aimed at achieving equity between military personnel and civilian staff under appropriate conditions. The Committee would appreciate receiving further information on the issue, including on mission subsistence allowance.

161. The Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to look at ways to increase coordination and cooperation between the rising number of peacekeeping missions in order to enhance synergies.

O. Other matters

162. The Special Committee recognizes that, in peacekeeping operations, there are contributors other than troop-contributing countries, whose views should also be taken into account, as appropriate.

1. Liquidation of missions

163. The Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to pursue more actively and when appropriate the liquidation of missions, so as to complete tasks in a time-bound fashion. Liquidation involves not only withdrawal of troops and the civilian component from the mission area, but also speedy processing of claims, payment to troop-contributing countries and the eventual closing of the books of account.

2. Rules of engagement

164. The Special Committee believes in the evolution, where appropriate, of robust rules of engagement that should be applied uniformly in conformity with the mission mandate adopted by the Security Council. This will not, however, obviate the need for the development of mission-specific rules of engagement, which should be developed in close consultation with the domestic law of troop-contributing countries. Once developed, those mission-specific rules of engagement should be applied uniformly, in conformity with the mandates of the missions concerned, and as adopted by the Security Council and under its political guidance.

3. Command and control

165. The Special Committee recognizes that operational support planning for peacekeeping operations is the joint responsibility of the Force Commander or Police Commissioner and the Director of Administration or Chief Administrative Officer. The Committee stresses the need for greater, timely cooperation and coordination between the Force Commander and the Director of Administration or Chief Administrative Officer in all operational aspects. The Committee requested the Secretariat to review decision-making procedures to ensure that efficient operational decisions can be made by the Force Commander and the Police

Commissioner, and requests that the Secretariat report to it on this matter at its next session.

4. HIV/AIDS

166. The Special Committee recognizes that HIV/AIDS is a major health concern for both peacekeepers and local residents and that it is also a politically sensitive issue with a potentially serious impact on the effectiveness of a given peacekeeping mission.

167. The Special Committee commends the creation of the HIV/AIDS Policy Adviser position within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and the collaboration between the Department and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) that has resulted in the development of AIDS education and prevention modules for peacekeepers.

168. In 2003, the Special Committee encouraged the establishment of an HIV/AIDS testing policy for military peacekeepers and civilian police participating in peacekeeping missions. The HIV/AIDS Policy Adviser has conducted a review of procedures and guidelines and has produced an "HIV testing policy for uniformed peacekeepers". That policy recommends that all troop and police-contributing countries offer voluntary confidential counselling and testing for prospective peacekeepers prior to deployment and upon their return home.

169. The Special Committee requests that the Secretary-General make the position of HIV/AIDS Policy Adviser a permanent one, through the newly available flexibility within the staffing table.

170. The Special Committee also calls for further efforts to respond to the challenge of HIV/AIDS, which confronts both peacekeepers and the vulnerable populations they serve. In that spirit, the Committee notes that the Security Council, in its resolution 1528 (2004), encouraged efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel to the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in peacekeeping missions.

5. Review of the recommendations of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations

171. The Special Committee supports the review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations with emphasis placed on identifying where adjustments should be made and on identifying where recommendations have not been fully implemented. The Committee takes note of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the impact of the recent restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (A/58/746) and looks forward to the independent review of the status of the implementation of the reform process initiated by the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809), to be presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

6. Memorial to the fallen

172. The Special Committee welcomes the Memorial to the Fallen located at United Headquarters, and made possible by the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the United Nations peacekeeping forces and unveiled on 24 October 2003. The Committee

expresses its appreciation for this fitting tribute to all who have fallen in the service of peace in United Nations peacekeeping and other field missions.

7. Dag Hammarskjöld Medal

173. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to make recommendations on the permanent and public display of the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal, and on a [memorial] book commemorating those who have fallen in the service of peace in United Nations peacekeeping missions, and to brief troop-contributing countries with regard to those recommendations before the next session of the Committee.

8. International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

174. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of General Assembly resolution 57/129 of 11 December 2002, in which 29 May was designated as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, as a tribute to all the men and women who had served and continued to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage, and to honour the memory of those who had lost their lives in the cause of peace.

175. The Special Committee welcomes the first observance of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers by the international community, in May 2003, on the fifty-fifth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping, which has become an event of special significance. The Special Committee appreciates the work done by the United Nations Secretariat, especially by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, with regard to arranging a number of events and activities during that Day, both at the United Nations Headquarters and in the peacekeeping missions on the ground.

176. The Special Committee invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and individuals to observe annually the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers in an appropriate manner.

9. Status-of-forces and status-of-mission agreements

177. Welcoming the efforts to conclude status-of-forces and status-of-mission agreements between host nations and the United Nations, the Special Committee reiterates that such agreements should be finalized at the earliest time possible and made available to the troop-contributing countries.

Annex I

Composition of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at its 2004 session

Members: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Observers: Belize, Burundi, Costa Rica, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Madagascar, Malta, Nauru, Paraguay, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, European Community, Holy See, International Committee of the Red Cross.

Annex II

Briefings received by the Special Committee at its 2004 session

1. In a series of presentations and exchanges of views with delegations, the Secretariat briefed the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, from 30 March to 14 April, on a number of the aspects of peacekeeping under consideration.

2. Briefings began with a presentation by the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit on policy development, lessons learned and knowledge management.

3. The Special Committee heard a presentation by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Public Information on public information activities in peacekeeping operations.

4. The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, the Military Adviser, the Civilian Police Adviser and the Chief of the Africa Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Special Committee on rapid deployment, logistical matters and planning and coordination.

5. The Special Committee was also provided with a briefing on safety and security in peacekeeping operations by the Military Division and the Situation Centre of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

6. The Office of Internal Oversight Services made a presentation on its forthcoming report on the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

7. The Special Committee was further provided with a briefing from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Gender Adviser on the Department's efforts to mainstream gender in peacekeeping operations.

8. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations provided a briefing on the Department's training policy, as well as an update on training initiatives.

9. The Director of Change Management of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Special Committee on the integrated mission planning process.

10. The Civilian Police Adviser and the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations informed the Committee of the Unit's work and of the resource challenges it was facing.

11. The Military Adviser of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Committee on "over-the-horizon" forces and rapidly deployable reserves.

12. The Special Committee was also briefed by the Personnel Management and Support Services of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the use of the Galaxy system in recruitment.

Annex III

Seminars and conferences held in 2003 and 2004

	Conference or seminar	*Location*	*Date*	*Sponsor or organizer*
1	Ninth International Military Observer Course	Szolnok, Hungary	19 April-7 May 2004	Hungary
2	Third International Military Observer Course	Zagreb-Rakitje	2-23 April 2004	[Republic of] Croatia
3	Gender Mainstreaming in Peacekeeping Operations	The Hague	18-20 February 2004	Ministries of Social Affairs, Defence, Internal Affairs and Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands
4	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration in Peacebuilding Course	Oslo	19-24 January 2004	Norwegian Defence International Centre
5	Seventh international Berlin workshop "Organized Crime as a major Obstacle to successful Peace-building"	Berlin	11-14 December 2003	Germany, Berlin Centre for International Peace Operations
6	Peace Operations Seminar for South Pacific Nations	Nadi, Fiji	7-14 December 2003	Australian Defence Force
7	Second Annual Conference on Peacekeeping Intelligence: Peacekeeping Intelligence: New Players, Extended Boundaries	Ottawa	4-5 December 2003	Paterson School of International Affairs (Carleton University)/Royal Military College of Canada
8	Thirteenth Challenges of Peace Operations Seminar. Challenges of Peace Operations: The Changing Nature of Peace Operations and the Continuing Need for Reforms	Ankara	18-21 November 2003	Centre for Strategic Research, Folke Bernadotte Academy
9	Civilian Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Course: Post-conflict Reconstruction Specialization	Durban, South Africa	11-19 November 2003	African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes/Norway
10	Civilian Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Course: Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response Specialization	Botswana	29 July-7 August 2003	African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes/Botswana Defence Force/Norway

Conference or seminar	*Location*	*Date*	*Sponsor or organizer*
11 United Nations Logistics Course	Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre, Port Dickson, Malaysia	8-21 June 2003	Malaysia, Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Norwegian Defence International Centre
12 Twelfth Challenges of Peace Operations Seminar: Peace Operations and Counter-Terrorism	Krusenberg, Sweden	23-25 May 2003	Folke Bernadotte Academy
13 United Nations Training Assistance Team/Mission Training Cell Officers Course	Zagreb-Rakitje	14-18 May 2003	United Nations/Republic of Croatia
14 International Peace Operations Seminar	Canberra	April-May 2003	Australian Defence Force Peacekeeping Centre
15 Papua New Guinea Involvement in Peacekeeping	Port Moresby	11-13 March 2003	Papua New Guinea Defence Force/Australia
16 Peacekeeping and Peace-Building Training Workshop	Bujumbura	24-28 February 2003	African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes
17 Rule of Law and the Legacy of Conflict	Gaborone	16-19 January 2003	Harvard University/United Nations Association of the United States of America